



REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2015

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FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

ARIZONA

The number of farms and ranches in Arizona in 2014 totaled 19,600, unchanged from the 2013 estimate. Total land in farms in Arizona, at 26.0 million acres, was down less than one percent from the 2013 estimate. The average size of farm was 1,327 acres, compared to 1,337 acres the previous year.

COLORADO

The number of farms and ranches in Colorado in 2014 totaled 35,000, down 600 operations from the 2013 estimate. Total land in farms in Colorado, at 31.8 million acres, was up less than one-half percent from the 2013 estimate. The average size of farm was 909 acres, compared to 890 acres the previous year.

MONTANA

The number of farms and ranches in Montana in 2014 totaled 27,800, down 300 operations from the 2013 estimate. Total land in farms in Montana, at 59.7 million acres, was unchanged from the 2013 estimate. The average size of farm was 2,147 acres, compared to 2,125 acres the previous year.

NEW MEXICO

The number of farms and ranches in New Mexico in 2014 totaled 24,700, down 100 operations from the 2013 estimate. Total land in farms in New Mexico, at 43.2 million acres, was unchanged from the 2013 estimate. The average size of farm was 1,749 acres, compared to 1,742 acres the previous year.

UTAH

The number of farms and ranches in Utah in 2014 totaled 18,100, down 100 operations from the 2013 estimate. Total land in farms in Utah at 11.0 million acres, was unchanged from the 2013 estimate. The average size of farm was 608 acres, compared to 604 acres the previous year.

WYOMING

The number of farms and ranches in Wyoming in 2014 totaled 11,700, up 200 operations from the 2013 estimate. Total land in farms in Wyoming, at 30.4 million acres, was up less than one percent from the 2013 estimate. The average size of farm was 2,598 acres, compared to 2,626 acres the previous year.

UNITED STATES

The number of farms in the United States for 2014 is estimated at 2.08 million, down 18 thousand farms from 2013. Total land in farms, at 913 million acres, decreased 1.03 million acres from 2013. The average farm size for 2014 is 438 acres, up 3 acres from the previous year.

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Farm numbers and land in farms are differentiated by six economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these six sales classes by summing the sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, \$500,000, and \$1,000,000. Producers were asked during the 2014 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2013 calendar year. Production or commodity price changes in 2013 resulted in the total value for virtually all livestock and livestock products to increase while the value of most crops declined. The value of vegetable, fruit, and tobacco crops increased.

Point Farms are farms that did not have the required minimum \$1,000 sales for the year to qualify as a farm, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more. Point Farms are assigned a sales class based on the sum of the agricultural point (dollar) values assigned to the quantity of commodities produced, but not sold. The 2012 Census of Agriculture showed that 428,810 farms or 20.3 percent of the 2.11 million farms were Point Farms. These Point Farms operated 63.0 million acres or 6.9 percent of the 914.5 million acres of farmland.

Farm numbers decreased by 18 thousand farms during 2014. The number of farms in Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 declined while all other sales classes increased slightly. Fifty-one percent of all farms have sales less than \$10,000. Eighty percent of all farms had sales less than \$100,000. Eight percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

Land in farms, at 913 million acres, is down one million acres from 2013. The biggest changes for 2014 are that producers with sales below \$10,000 operated 4.3 million fewer acres while those in Sales Class \$500,000-\$999,999 operated 3.71 million more acres. The percentage of all farmland operated by farms in Sales Class \$500,000-\$999,999 is 17 percent, and for one million dollars or more is 24 percent.

The average farm size increased in 2014 by 3 acres to 438 acres per farm as the number of farms declined more than the land in farms. The average farm sizes declined in all but the largest sales class.

USDA's definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and other government conservation programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 Census.

For a full copy of the *Farms and Land in Farms* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov. For state specific questions please contact:

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